



Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804
Phone 406-542-5500

December 18, 2018

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal to acquire fee title to a 154-acre land parcel, as an addition to FWP's adjoining 9,635-acre Garrity Mountain Wildlife Management Area (GMWMA). The private parcel is currently owned by YT Timber, LLC and is located 7 miles west of Anaconda in Deer Lodge County. The parcel is in an area identified in the Natural Resource Damage Programs' (NRDP) 2012 Restoration Plan as a priority landscape for conservation actions. The GMWMA addition would protect a migration corridor for bighorn sheep and key habitat for bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout as well as preclude subdivision or development. It would be managed for fish and wildlife habitat as well as to improve public recreational access and opportunities on GMWMA. The project would be funded by NRDP, the Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Fund, and FWP's Habitat Montana Fund.

FWP will hold a public hearing in Anaconda on January 3, 2019 (Thursday) at 7:00 p.m. at the AOH Hall (106 Cherry Street) to discuss the proposal, answer questions and take public comment.

The EA may also be obtained by mail from Region 2 FWP at the address above; by phoning 406-542-5540; by emailing shrose@mt.gov; or by viewing FWP's Internet website <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("News," then "Recent Public Notices," beginning December 18).

Comments may be made on FWP's website (webpage above) or may be directed to Sharon Rose at the mail or email addresses above. Comments must be received by FWP no later than January 16, 2019.

As part of the decision-making process under MEPA, I expect to issue the Decision Notice for this EA very soon after the end of the comment period. The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission has the final decision-making authority for FWP land acquisition proposals, and the Commission will be asked to render its decision on this proposal at its regularly scheduled meeting on February 13, 2019 in Helena. Approval would also be necessary from the Montana Board of Land Commissioners.

Sincerely,

Randy Arnold
Regional Supervisor

RA/sr